

OTHER NOTICES

Ballard, Philip Boswood. *Group Tests of Intelligence.* University of London Press. Sixth Impression. 1930. Pp. 252. Price 6s.

THE development of the theory and practice of testing intelligence is perhaps the most important achievement of twentieth-century psychological science. Dr. Ballard's books have probably been among the major means of making his work known, especially among the younger generation of teachers. Though *Group Tests of Intelligence*, first published in 1922, is now in its sixth impression, there is room for a still wider knowledge and understanding of the subject among the older generation of teachers, among administrators and among the general public.

This book forms an excellent introduction. It is written with great clearness and charm of style, and deals with mental tests at their nearest to the school examination system, and in the form in which they can most easily be used by those without extensive training in psychology. Several important group tests, including Dr. Ballard's own interesting absurdities test, are given in full, with their keys; in addition, many quotations from other tests are used to display in all its variety the kind of material which has been found most useful in measuring intelligence.

To those interested in the problem of what intelligence is—and this should include all those who wish to make comparative judgments of human stocks—a scrutiny of this material, together with Dr. Ballard's chapters on the nature and limitations of intelligence, is most helpful. Readers interested in the modern statistical approach to biological problems, and anxious to understand the concepts which lie behind the correlation formulæ in common use, will find that the two long chapters on correlation and probable error will clear up many difficulties.

EVELYN LAWRENCE.

Berry, R. J. A. (Editor). *Stoke Park Monographs on Mental Deficiency and other Problems of the Human Brain and Mind.* No. 1. The Burden Memorial Volume. London, 1933. Macmillan. Pp. 249. Price 10s. 6d.

THE generous endowment of the Stoke Park Colony by its late founder and first warden, the Rev. H. N. Burden, and of further research in the field of mental deficiency by his widow, makes the publication of this Burden Memorial Volume a proper tribute. It is to be expected that subsequent studies will give proof of the great value of such public-spirited generosity in helping to advance knowledge. The present volume is, however, a collection of papers written at various times during the last twenty years, the majority of them by the

Director of Medical Services at the Colony, Professor R. J. A. Berry.

It is well known that Professor Berry has shown unbounded energy and enthusiasm in his work at Bristol and that he is particularly interested in the social, craniometric, and histological aspects of deficiency. His dominant influence is everywhere evident in the papers here collected. It is probably from this cause that one finds so much repetition in the articles, some of which are addressed less to the specialist in anatomy or psychiatry than to the relatively uninstructed physician or layman. One would wish for more precise and critical scientific reports, such as will doubtless become available in later numbers of the series. There is also in this volume little attention paid to the available data, partly adverse to the author's views, which may be found in the literature of the subject. No reference has been made, for example, so far as the reviewer can discover, to the important relevant studies of Dubois and of Lapique and his collaborators, or to much German work on cellular structure. Besides the numerous expositions by Professor Berry of his conclusions about the relation of size of head to intelligence, and his simplified account of the anatomy and functions of the central nervous system, the book contains reports of some psychological experiments, of neurological findings and miscellaneous work done by his coadjutors. It is clear that there is much activity at Stoke Park, not yet systematic but influenced by guiding ideas for which Professor Berry is mainly responsible. Further evidence of the trend of this activity will, it is hoped, be forthcoming in which, along with zeal, there will be presented more detailed investigations and more critical reports.

A. J. LEWIS.

Besterman, Theodore. *Men against Women: A Study of Sexual Relations.* London. Methuen and Co. Pp. 238. Price 6s.

THIS is a fascinating book, but has little bearing on eugenics, since it is not concerned with the results of sexual relations except in regard to the repercussions of the partners upon each other. Even illegitimate children scarcely enter into the question. It seeks to establish the thesis (1) that there is a fundamental antagonism between the sexes, (2) that this is due to man's profound fear of woman, and (3) that this fear leads to a collective emotion of sexual solidarity in both men and women. This deep-lying male fear of the female sex (for it extends to the eating of female animals) would seem to be not merely a natural dread of the unknown and mysterious, but a phenomenon due mainly to the idea that feminine inferiority is contagious and that, by weakening the males, women might get the

upper hand. Women must, therefore, be kept in their proper (i.e. inferior) position at all costs—and forbidden, for instance, to eat tiger-flesh, lest they become too strong-minded. Men must be most carefully guarded by every sort of taboo from female influence. Even male infants must be protected against their mothers.

Mr. Besterman has collected a considerable body of evidence in support of this theory. It is lucidly and pleasantly marshalled: e.g. in Fiji "women are excluded from all forms of worship," and "are evidently regarded as even more dangerous than dogs; for while these are excluded from some temples, women are kept out of them all." He allows the facts to speak for themselves and challenges the reader to decide whether they uphold the theory he has put forward.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Crowther, J. G. *Biology in Education*. London, 1933. Heinemann. Pp. 204 + 60. Price 7s. 6d.

THIS is a handbook based on the proceedings of the National Conference on the place of Biology in Education, organised by the British Social Hygiene Council. The Editor is to be much congratulated on the way in which the task has been accomplished; it is rare to find a readable book made out of the faithful presentation of papers as read, particularly when an account of verbal discussions is included. Having been present at most of the conference meetings, I can testify to the impressive and stimulating effect that was achieved.

The preface surveys briefly the milestones already passed on the road to securing biology as a regular part of the education of every child, an aim which has long been shared by the *Eugenics Society*. Among many interesting papers the address of the late Sir Walter Morley Fletcher should not be missed. It is sad that the need for condensation has considerably reduced the inspiring section of that address which dealt with the relation of biological understanding, to aesthetics, the humanities, and above all religion.

A careful study of the contributions from practising teachers gives the impression that the whole question is at present seriously hampered by lack of a concrete aim as to what the teaching of biology should do, and an even greater lack of definiteness in method. The appendix to the book (which can be obtained separately from the British Social Hygiene Council), gives three schemes of teaching. The first is an outline for general science which is being elaborated, and a series of text books by Professor Julian Huxley and Professor Andrade. The second scheme is by Professor Winifred Cullis and Miss M. Bond, and follows to a considerable extent the lines of Professor Cullis's broadcast lessons to schools. It takes the direction of physiology, or functional biology. The third has

been prepared by the late Sir J. Arthur Thompson with amplifications by Marjory H. and Percy F. Lee and is a scheme of Nature study arranged for seasonal work and graded to students from eleven to college age.

It is probable that the text books based on Scheme I will really give teachers what they are looking for to-day; though eugenists will be disappointed in the absence of evolution from this and from the otherwise very useful Scheme II. Heredity, natural selection and variation do not appear. From Scheme III as it stands only a naturalist well versed in Darwinian studies could bring out these essentials of biology.

It is my considered opinion, after long contact with classes of every grade and with numbers of teachers, that what is needed to-day is not so much detailed syllabuses of class subjects, however excellent, as an outline of the broader issues. The laws of life—in other words the distinction between living and non-living, and the facts of evolution particularly as they can be deduced from studies on the living (rather than from palæontology or from embryology)—are not usually well presented in any text book and require to be clearly grasped by the teacher. Even rather unintelligent children are interested in such fundamental conceptions, and it is suggested that it is these alone which give any point to the claim, now so generally made, that there is cultural value in the study of biology.

C. B. S. HODSON.

Doll, Edgar A. *The Problem of the Feeble-Minded in New Jersey*. (Reprinted from the *Training School Bulletin*, November and December, 1932, January 1933.)

IN this monograph, which is one of a series published by the New Jersey State Board of Control, Dr. Doll discusses the incidence of mental deficiency in the general population and also the training and supervision necessary in individual cases. Formerly, it was held that about two persons per thousand in the general population were feeble-minded; the estimate now given is at least 1 per cent. for adults and about 2 per cent. for juveniles. It must be remembered that "feeble-minded" in this context means the same as "mentally defective" in England, and that it is customary to divide cases into idiots, imbeciles and morons. "Moronity," Dr. Doll explains, "is the highest degree of feeble-mindedness and merges imperceptibly into intellectual subnormality." Only 10 per cent. of the estimated number of feeble-minded are cared for in public institutions, and it is pointed out that permanent institutional care of all cases is neither necessary nor advisable. The great majority of the feeble-minded can be made reasonably successful when adequate programmes for their training and social supervision are provided.

The monograph quotes freely from the resolutions of the New Jersey Conference on Child Health

and Protection, which met in 1931. New Jersey is reputed to have been the first State to make mandatory provision for special classes for subnormals. An extended scheme of special education is now advocated, which is to include the examination of backward children at clinics and community supervision of the 90 per cent. of feeble-minded who do not require institutional care. A limited programme of selective sterilization is favoured which carefully safeguards the rights of the individual.

L. S. PENROSE.

Gates, Professor R. Ruggles, F.R.S. *Racial and Social Problems in the Light of Heredity.* (Reprint from *Population*, Vol. I, No. 2, February 1934.)

THIS is a useful statement of problems of public interest, now that population questions are at last coming to be recognized as of fundamental importance and the nature of war has become so much more terrifying. The author thinks that the differences between races of man are greater than many between species of animals. Populations of most countries are known to be agglomerations and mixtures of race types and the study of race mixture is vital. The author says that a tincture of negro blood may be diffusing itself in the United States, and he advocates discouragement of miscegenation between black and white, a bad practice, he thinks, whether its evil results are due to biological or to social factors or to both. The black races, Professor Ruggles Gates believes, may develop considerably in the social and intellectual fields, but he dissents from any notion of their equality with whites.

While agreeing with him in the main, the reviewer would ask readers not to set limits too sharply to the renaissance that is beginning in Africa. An Egyptian of 2000 B.C. might have emphasized the inferiority of Europeans, and perhaps an English cotton merchant of 1834 would have been startled to think that his successors in 1934 would be asking the Japanese to leave them a little of the world's textile trade.

H. J. FLEURE.

Hall, Gladys Mary, M.A. *Prostitution: A Survey and a Challenge.* London, 1933. Williams & Norgate. Pp. 196. Price 7s. 6d.

THE growth of interest in matters concerned with social hygiene has resulted in a spate of literature which tends to overwhelm the student and renders his choice of authors difficult.

This book is based upon intimate and confidential knowledge, and in consequence the source of information is often undisclosed; but it can be thoroughly recommended to those who are concerned with the problem of prostitution and wish to review the position to-day.

The material is presented in a practical, stimulating, and scientific manner. The extent of pros-

titution is set out clearly and concisely and free from subjective bias, and the position in different countries is sufficiently reviewed. The author points out that the prostitute is constantly associated with crime, and breaks the law when she oversteps certain boundaries of accepted conduct; but apart from this many promiscuous women are guilty of other forms of delinquency, and the connection between prostitution and crime must be regarded to some extent as the consequence of the position occupied by the professional prostitute in relation to society.

The author considers that a combination of circumstances may most frequently be supposed to lead to promiscuous habits and professional prostitution. It may be noted that the same applies usually to habitual criminality. Poverty, environment, loneliness, monotony, occupational misplacement, alcohol, assaults in childhood, knowledge of contraceptives, mental deficiency, temperamental faults and desire for sex experience, are mentioned as important factors which tend toward prostitution.

The author concludes as the result of her survey that in spite of the antiquity of prostitution there is no social reason why it should continue, and many social reasons why it should not. It is suggested that professional prostitutes are losing favour and decreasing in number, and that amateur promiscuity is increasing. The reader is invited to conclude that the present-day preoccupation with sex matters, the trend towards promiscuity, the attitude of women towards sex and its possible effects on marriage, will redirect social customs and alter the problem of prostitution in the not far-distant future.

W. NORWOOD EAST.

Hoyer, Niels. *Man into Woman: An Authentic Record of a Change of Sex.* London, 1933. Jarrolds. Pp. 287. Price 7s. 6d.

THIS book can be looked at from two points of view—either as a scientific record, or as a work of fiction. From both it is extremely unsatisfactory. If it is intended to be a serious scientific account, as the introduction suggests, then there is no excuse for the inadequacy of the physiological, pathological, and surgical details given. From the account as it stands it is impossible to form a correct idea of what was done. The statement on page 7, that ovarian tissue was removed from a healthy woman to be implanted in someone else for the purposes of experiment, gives some idea of the mentality of the people who were dealing with this situation, it being well known that the results of a heterogeneous graft are very problematical, and that the graft itself is inevitably absorbed within about two years. Nor does it help to dispel the general atmosphere of doubt and uncertainty that the surgeon in question has refused to give his real name.

The story part of the book cannot be considered seriously at all; it is a sentimental piece of writing which carries no conviction and is quite useless from a scientific point of view.

Looked at as a piece of melodramatic fiction this book is still more deplorable. The subject is unsuitable for such treatment, and it is to be regretted that the general public should be invited to read matter which can only produce inaccurate ideas and give misleading impressions of the possibilities of surgery.

HELENA WRIGHT.

Mahaim, M. Ernest (Editor). *Enquête sur les conditions de Vie des familles nombreuses en Belgique. Analyse des Resultats par Mlle Aimee Racine, Conclusions Sociologiques par M. Eugene Dupréel.* Liège, 1933. Pp. 174.

THIS very careful and detailed study of the large family in Belgium—its causes, virtues and defects—was carried out at the suggestion of the International Union for the Study of Population Problems. It gives particulars, and the conclusions to be drawn from them, of 140 large families, grading from extreme poverty to professional, middle-class comfort. Belgium, like France and Germany, is seeking to encourage large families, and, therefore, one of the national reasons for this inquiry was to discover the causes which induce parents to produce numerous offspring. It is of interest to note that a most conscientious and painstaking sifting of the facts, recorded by a variety of observers, reveals that in most cases the large family is due to fecklessness and inability to achieve any limitation—and very little to Government incentives, or even to the help afforded by the *Ligue des Familles Nombreuses*. In a few cases there was a deep religious conviction that the use of contraceptives, or indeed any other method of family limitation, is wicked; and in some that all interference with Nature is dangerous. In most of these cases a certain self-righteous pride was expressed and an eagerness to prove that a large family denotes more unselfishness and a deeper moral sense than that enjoyed by other people. In this attitude the inquirers could not help recognising the usual compensation-mechanism and cloak of the inferiority complex. In one family of nine children, the two sons were destined for the priesthood, which does not reveal any real wish to continue the tradition.

The inquiry deserves careful study from all students of population problems. It is full of delightful side-lights on human nature—e.g. the husband who “said he would instantly kill his wife if she made the slightest attempt to limit her offspring. He is a nervous and irritable man.”!

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Pearl, Raymond. *Constitution and Health.* London, 1933. Kegan Paul. (Psyche Miniature Series, No. 60.) Pp. 97. Price 2s. 6d.

THE main thesis of this book may be summarized as follows. Both laymen and doctors often seem to regard disease as the invasion of the healthy body by some “specific, discrete, inimical entity, fastening on its victim, as it were.” Such a viewpoint minimizes the extremely important influence of congenital factors and general constitution, both on the amount and the kind of disease to which the individual is liable. But the estimation of this influence of constitutional characteristics must depend on the accumulation of precise, objective measurements, which may then be correlated with pathological data. One such characteristic is the bodily habitus, that is the degree in which individuals are tall and thin (asthenic or leptosome), or short and stout (pyknic). The habitus can be measured accurately; it is, probably, determined to a large extent congenitally, and it is already known to be related to disease. Asthenic persons are in general more liable to respiratory, and pyknic persons to circulatory, disorders. The population does not, of course, fall into two separate and well-defined types, for there are many more intermediate cases than extreme pyknics or asthenics. And a certain proportion of individuals are pyknic in respect of parts of the body (e.g. the legs) and asthenic in other parts (e.g. the trunk); such cases are called dysplastic, as contrasted with the euplastic, who show normal symmetry.

Professor Pearl's object was very simple—namely, to discover whether general good and bad health is at all affected by habitus. Precise measurements were obtained of the bodily dimensions of 290 women, together with rough estimates of their health throughout their lifetime (good, fair, or poor). With arbitrary dividing lines, some 17 per cent. were classed as asthenic, 23 per cent. as pyknic and about 60 per cent. as intermediate; 80 per cent. of all the cases were euplastic, 20 per cent. dysplastic. On comparing with the health records, the pyknic group was found to be slightly more unhealthy on the average, but to a statistically insignificant extent. Fewer dysplastics showed “good” health, and more showed only “fair” health; here the differences were 2.4 and 3.0 times their probable errors, so that the tendency is hardly reliable.

Though the result of this investigation was negative, it is possible that further analysis of a larger number of cases in relation to qualitative aspects of disease will be fruitful. It may be suggested, however, that perhaps habitus is in fact a rather unimportant characteristic. Few psychologists or psychiatrists seem to find much value in Kretschmer's generalizations, and they may well be of little biological significance also. Nevertheless, this book can be recommended, not merely

because the lay reader will be interested in the exposition (with dramatic illustrations) of varieties of habitus, but because the geneticist, the psychologist and the physician will find many incidental points upon which Professor Pearl has something stimulating and provocative to say. It would take too long to describe such points here; they include, for example, methods of classification of diseases, the biological conception of disease as strength or weakness of different organs in relation to the body as a whole, and the definition of the terms "constitution" and "heredity."

P. E. VERNON.

Scheumann, F. K. *Bekämpfung der Unterwertigkeit.* Alfred Metzner Verlag. Berlin, 1933. Pp. 94.

THE Third Empire has brought on the market a great mass of "eugenic" literature—but mostly, it must be confessed, of poor quality, which even a recommendation of the Minister of Propaganda does not noticeably improve.

The volume under review is interesting on account of the personality of its author. Until the nation awakened F. K. Scheumann was a Social Democrat. His last contributions to the *Sozialistische Rundschau* are to be found in the January and February issues of this "sub-human" Marxist periodical. Three months later, in May, Scheumann was already able to write a work which from beginning to end is a homage to the new régime.

We are not concerned with the genesis of this hasty change of opinion, or to inquire whether anyone can be certain how he would act in similar circumstances; but the fact of interest to eugenicists is that this conversion has resulted in the production of a poor piece of work. The book is a

loosely strung together collection of case histories with some commentary, but lacking entirely the solid foundation supplied by a ripened *Weltanschauung*. It will certainly disappoint any readers who happen to be looking for a genuine system of Nazi eugenics.

T.

X. Ray. *More Love and Sex.* London. C. W. Daniel. Pp. 63. Price 1s. and 2s.

As the author says in his preface, "many books have been written on the subject of love and sex," and this new contribution is a collection of thoughts and quotations; but these latter, when divorced from their original context, are not very helpful.

X. Ray writes more about sex than love, but sex is best treated biologically and not separated from its proper value and relationship to life. The fact that it governs the continuance of life itself and contributes greater happiness than any other one factor, gives it first place in the world's consideration; but we must not forget that it also produces great unhappiness and tragedies, and these latter largely because young people have the subject so incessantly pushed in front of them that it becomes an obsession which is most unhealthy, and is the cause of abnormal stress and strain to which they need never have been subjected.

Children taught sex from the biological standpoint by their parents or teachers will have their minds at rest and be occupied by hundreds of other interesting things of life. They are more likely than others to make happy marriages, of which there are more than X. Ray seems to infer in his book. Unhappy marriages, disease, and crime get more discussed than happiness, health, and law-abiding citizens. The book has no eugenic value.

G. M. CHAMBERS.

